

1 In the claims:

2 1. A computer readable medium, having programming executable on a computer, that
3 provides program content notification related to content available on a video and multimedia
4 program content distribution network, comprising:

5 a content availability notification module;

6 a notification data reception module, coupled to the content availability notification
7 module, that receives and processes notification data, wherein the notification data is used to
8 formulate and transmit one or more content availability notification messages;

9 a content schedule and availability analysis module, coupled to the notification data
10 reception module, that receives and processes one or more of content schedule and
11 availability of the program content available on the video and multimedia program content
12 distribution network and user content download requests, and produces processed schedule
13 and availability data;

14 a content download request analysis module, coupled to the notification data
15 reception module, that processes data from the user download requests for formatting and
16 routing one or more content notification availability forms;

17 a notification form builder, coupled to the content schedule and availability analysis
18 module, that receives the processed schedule and availability data, and generates a
19 notification form;

20 a notification form router, coupled to the notification form builder, that routes
21 notification data for transmission to a user; and

22 one or more notification modules that provide the program content notification.

23 2. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the one or more notification
24 modules comprise:

25 a user terminal notification module that provides an on-screen notification;

26 an email notification module that provides an email notification;

27 an instant messaging notification module that provides an instant text notification
28 message;

1 a pager and wireless notification module that provides one of a voice and a text
2 notification message; and

3 an automated telephone notification module that provides a telephone message
4 notification.

5 3. The computer readable medium of claim 2, wherein the on-screen notification
6 includes one or more of an on-screen pop up window, an on-screen banner, an icon, and an
7 audible message.

8 4. The computer readable medium of claim 3, wherein the on-screen notification is
9 provided at one of a television and an computer display.

10 5. The computer readable medium of claim 4, wherein the on-screen notification
11 includes a hyperlink to one or more programs.

12 6. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the program content notification
13 is provided until an acknowledgement is received by the content availability notification
14 module.

15 7. The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein the program content notification
16 is provided continually.

17 8. The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein the program content notification
18 is provided periodically.

19 9. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the one or more notification
20 modules provide the program content notification

21 10. The computer readable medium of claim 1, further comprising a user data analysis
22 module, coupled to the notification data reception module, that receives and processes user
23 profile data.

24 11. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the notification data are
25 contained in a program content download request.

26 12. The computer readable medium of claim 1, further comprising a user's profile and
27 history file, wherein the notification data are contained in the user's profile and history file.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the notification data includes the method of delivery of the program content notification.

14. A method for notifying users of availability of video and digital multimedia program content in a video and multimedia program content distribution network, comprising:

receiving a program content request, wherein the request specifies desired program content for delivery to a user terminal;

receiving information related to availability of the desired program content;

determining a notification protocol to notify the user terminal of the availability of the desired program content;

analyzing the information related to the availability of the desired program content;

generating a notification form; and

routing the notification form to one or more notification modules, wherein the one or more notification modules transmit a program content availability notification.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of determining the notification protocol comprises analyzing a user history and profile file.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of determining the notification protocol comprises analyzing a program content download request.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the notification protocol comprises one or more of delivery of an on-screen prompt, an email message, a wireless message, an instant text message, an audio message, and an automated telephone message.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising repeating the program content availability notification until an acknowledgement is received.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the acknowledgement is received at the user terminal.

20. A system that provides program content notification related to content available on a video and multimedia program content distribution network, comprising:

1 means for receiving program notification data, wherein the receiving means receives
2 and processes notification data, wherein the notification data is used to formulate and
3 transmit one or more content availability notification messages;

4 means for analyzing program content schedule and availability, coupled to the
5 receiving means, wherein the means for analyzing program content schedule and availability
6 receives and processes one or more of content schedule and availability of the program
7 content available on the video and multimedia program content distribution network and user
8 content download requests, and produces processed schedule and availability data;

9 means for analyzing a program content download request, coupled to the receiving
10 means, wherein the means for analyzing a program content download request processes data
11 from the user download requests for formatting and routing one or more content notification
12 availability forms;

13 means for generating a notification form, coupled to the means for analyzing content
14 schedule and availability, wherein the generating means receives the processed schedule and
15 availability data, and generates a notification form;

16 means for routing the notification form, coupled to the generating means, wherein the
17 routing means routes notification data for transmission to a user; and

18 means for providing the program content notification.

19 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the means for providing the program content
20 notification comprises:

21 means for providing an on-screen notification;

22 means for providing an email notification;

23 means for providing an instant text notification message;

24 means for providing a wireless voice and a text notification message; and

25 means for providing an automated telephone message notification.

26 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the on-screen notification includes one or more of
27 an on-screen pop up window, an on-screen banner, an icon, and an audible message.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the on-screen notification includes a hyperlink to one or more programs.

25. The system of claim 20, wherein the program content notification is provided until an acknowledgement is received by the receiving means.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the program content notification is provided continually.

27. The system of claim 25, wherein the program content notification is provided periodically.

28. The system of claim 20, further comprising means of analyzing user data, coupled to the receiving means, wherein the means for analyzing user data receives and processes user profile data.

29. The system of claim 20, wherein the notification data are contained in a program content download request.

30. The system of claim 20, further comprising a user's profile and history file, wherein the notification data are contained in the user's profile and history file.

31. The system of claim 20, wherein the notification data includes the method of delivery of the program content notification.